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Subject: SWEDISH NATIONALS IN BERLIN RENDERING ASSISTANCE TO ALLIED INTELLIGENCE SERVICES DURING THE WAR

Report No. 21

Report Date: 7 February 1946

Information Date: 1944

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1. FOREL, attached to the Swedish Embassy in BERLIN as minister of the church, was under suspicion of working for a foreign intelligence service. He perished in a plane accident in 1944 (?) en route to STOCKHOLM. No action had been taken in his case, presumably because the available evidence was not deemed sufficient.

N 2. After FOREL's death, suspicion centered on the secretary of the Swedish Church, Eric WESLEN. WESLEN had his office in the Swedish Legation. All told four sources, independently from each other, pointed to WESLEN as implicated in espionage activities against Germany.

3. In autumn 1944, two British parachute W/T agents were apprehended in BERLIN, after having been in hiding and sending messages for about a month. They were equipped with a small Morse-transmitter. One of the agents was shot dead, after he had tried to resist capture and shot one of the police officials arresting him. The other, a Yugoslav Iwan FROL, admitted under questioning to having been in contact with Eric WESLEN of the Swedish Church, 27 Landhausstrasse, Berlin-Wilmersdorf. After his arrival in BERLIN, FROL had sent a message to WESLEN, asking him for a meeting somewhere in the West of BERLIN. The messenger had been instructed to tell WESLEN that a Captain LEE wanted to speak to him. The messenger, a German non-commissioned officer, managed to get away when the parachute agents were arrested; he was apprehended at the beginning of 1945. Under questioning, he confessed to having called on WESLEN after the successful getaway and to have told him about the arrest of the two parachutists. WESLEN, the messenger claimed, had refused to render further assistance, because things were getting too hot for him.

4. Beginning 1940, a Roumanian national, Prince TAMARIN, was investigated by the Staatspolizeileitstelle BERLIN at the request of the Reichssicherheits-nauptamt. TAMARIN was well acquainted in BERLIN diplomatic circles. He was, however, a typical impostor faking information (Nachrichtenbetruer), which made it difficult to sift truth from invention. When the direct question was put to him, TAMARIN contended that WESLEN, to the best of his knowledge, was an agent of the Western powers. It is quite possible, source comments, that TAMARIN lied.

5. During the last months of the war, the Staatspolizeileitstelle BERLIN received notice, that a private car had been stopped in the Eastern zone of operations in the vicinity of Frankfurt/Oder under suspicious circumstances. Car owner was WESLEN who, source believed, also drove the car himself. By way of explaining his presence in the zone of operations, he claimed to have been

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looking for a car belonging to the Swedish Church which had been parked in some village near the Eastern front.

6. End of 1944 the Staatspolizeileitstelle BERLIN received a report to the effect that the Swedish Church in BERLIN was busily engaged in helping German deserters. Mention was made of a crypt below the Swedish Church as a likely hiding place of German deserters. The report claimed that the Swedish Church provided the deserters with rations and helped them to get across the border. This case was assigned to section IV N of the Staatspolizeileitstelle BERLIN with the directive to try to clear up the matter with the aid of agents. Source later on inquired from Kriminalsekretär PAULI, the IV N case worker, what progress had been made and learned the following: One of PAULI's female agents, who knew the Swedish Military Attache well, had asked him to help a German relative of her's who had deserted. The Swedish Military Attache had referred her to the Swedish Church in BERLIN. The "would-be" deserter had reported to the Swedish Church where, source believes, WESLEN himself gave him one-day rations. After that, he had been asked to go with an employee of the Swedish Embassy to the house of his relatives where his statements would be checked. This suggestion had caught him unprepared and some incident that occurred in the house of his relatives had finally tipped the Embassy employee off.

7. The Swedish Church in BERLIN had frequently been under Abwehr and Gestapo observation. WESLEN's antecedents had been checked by the police and it had been found that in his police registration he had claimed as a profession: horticultural assistant. The Chief of the Protocoll, Foreign Office, rendered his opinion that WESLEN enjoyed extraterritorial privileges and for that reason could not be arrested. No diplomatic steps were taken in the matter, because this would have given away the abortive "Agentenspiel" and might have embarrassed the Staatspolizeileitstelle BERLIN.

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